**2025 Dark Sky Event Calendar – Rappahannock County Park**

RCRFA will open the park a total of nine (9) evenings during 2025 during which the public can come and observe the night skies (nominally once a month during the warmer months). These are listed below. The ‘New Moon’ dates have been chosen to provide dark moonless nights for observations. The “FULL Moon” date has been chosen to allow a nearly full moon to be observed above the trees in the park.

RLEP will provide a minimum of four (4) night skies event programs in 2025 to be scheduled on four of the nine evenings as indicated in blue text. On Open Observation Evenings, the Park is open until 2-3 hours after sunset. Event dates and start times are shown.

1 day before New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening**: Sat. Apr. 26 (Sunset 7:59 pm)

2 days before FULL Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. May 10, 8:15 pm – (Sunset 8:12 pm)**

2 days before New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening**: Sat. May 24, (Sunset 8:24 pm)

3 days after New Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. June 28, 8:45 pm – (Sunset 8:40 pm)**

2 days after New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening**: Sat. July 26, (Sunset 8:27 pm)

1 day after New Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. Aug. 23, 8:00 pm – (Sunset 7:54 pm)**

1 day before New Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. Sept. 20, 7:15 pm – (Sunset 7:11 pm)**

3 days before New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening: Sat. Oct. 18, (Sunset 6:29 pm)**

4 days before New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening: Sat. Nov. 15, (Sunset 4:58 pm)**

Celestial Events

* Total Lunar Eclipse: Friday March 14 (totality: 5:09 UT – 7:30 UT, subtract 5 hours for Eastern time)
* Partial Solar Eclipse in New England & northeastern Canada: Sat. March 29 (greatest %: 10:47 UT)
* Lyrids Meteor Shower: April 22-23
* Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower: May 6-7
* Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower: July 28-29
* Perseid Meteor Shower: Aug. 12-13
* Orionids Meteor Shower: Oct. 21-22
* Leonids Meteor Shower: Nov. 17-18
* Geminid Meteor Shower: Dec. 13-14 (peak on Dec. 13 to morning of 14th)